



MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT
JOSE P. LAUREL
1943-1945

BOOK 2 | VOLUME 1
Official Month in Review

President's Month in Review: November, 1943

The Official Month

AGREEING with two statements of General Hideki Tozo, Premier of Japan, that "the nations of Greater East Asia, while mutually recognizing their autonomy and independence, must, as a whole, establish among themselves relations of brotherly amity," and that the spiritual essence of the culture of Greater East Asia must be developed and refined in order that mankind might be saved from the clutches of a materialistic civilization, the delegates to the Greater East Asia Congress held from November 5 to 6, 1943— President Jose P. Laurel, the representative of the Republic of the Philippines, among them—unanimously approved on November 6 in Tokyo, Japan, a Joint Declaration.

THE Joint Declaration as adopted envisions the stability of every East Asian nation, the construction of an order of common prosperity and well-being based upon justice, the respect of each member-nation's sovereignty and independence, mutual assistance and amity; respect of each nation's traditions and development of the faculties of each race; the acceleration of economic development upon a basis of reciprocity and the promotion of the general prosperity of their region; and the abolition of racial discrimination and the promotion of cultural intercourse throughout the world.

IT was these basic principles that impelled President Laurel upon his arrival in Manila from the Congress to say that the Joint Declaration, judged as a whole or taken separately is a notable instrument, a great human charter. Asked the President: "Why should there not be a sphere of common prosperity, a league of independent states bound together by racial, cultural, and geographical ties, and governed in their dealings by the spirit of brotherhood and the principles of moral justice? Why should not the nations of East Asia live harmoniously with each other on a broad basis of mutual respect of one another's sovereignty and independence? Is there any better way than this? Why cannot the East, the cradle of human civilization, enhance its own culture and once again shed light to all the world? Closely cooperating with one another on the basis of reciprocity, should not the economic development of the entire sphere bring about the prosperity of all? And, what else could be more desirable than equality among God's creatures, the abolition of racial discrimination, and with it and through it, progress, peace and harmony among all the peoples of the earth?"

IT was the same basic principles which also prompted him at the dinner he gave in honor of His Excellency, Subhas Chandra Bose, Head of the Provisional Government of India on November 23 to recall that at the Greater East Asia Congress the delegates "uttered only one voice—the voice of Asia; meaning, the liberation of oppressed Asian peoples and the unification of the peoples of Greater East Asia." In reply, Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose linked the destiny of India with the destiny of Asia. He said, "the individual often must die if the nation has to live. And speaking for ourselves, we feel every day and every moment of our lives that who lives if India dies, who dies if India lives? That is the feeling that inspires us today and will inspire us tomorrow. We are prepared for a long and hard struggle . . . We are conscious at last of our historic part which India and the Indian people have to fulfill for themselves and for Asia and for India."

FURTHER strengthening the relations of Japan with the Philippines, Ambassador to the Philippines Syozo Murata on November 29 presented his Letter of Credence to President Laurel. In his *note verbale*, the Japanese Ambassador said: "Being conscious of the honor bestowed upon me as the first Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines, I am firmly determined to exert my best efforts for the complete execution of the Five Basic Principles (of the Joint Declaration) and the Pact of Alliance, with a view to promoting friendship and concord between our two countries, contributing in this manner to the establishment of Greater East Asia." For his part, President Laurel declared that the norms of conduct inherent in the Five Basic Principles, "particularly the principle of respect for each other's independence and sovereignty and the principle of economic cooperation upon the basis of reciprocity, shall guide my Government in its relations with all nations, and shall, I am certain, encourage my people to develop that confidence in their own powers and that faith in their own destiny which alone can make them sincere and diligent builders of the Co-Prosperity Sphere."

THE other highlight in this month's happenings is the exposition of national unity by the President when speaking at the New Luneta, Manila, on National Heroes' Day he beseeched his countrymen

to follow the object-lessons taught by Filipino heroes and martyrs. These are: (1) to love the native land, (2) to love each other, (3) to help in the reconstruction of the Philippines. "Now, of all times, we must help one another so that the Republic of the Philippines can survive," he said. Comparing the independent Philippines to a tree planted by Filipino heroes, President of Asia; meaning, the liberation of oppressed Asian peoples and the unification of the peoples of Greater East Asia." In reply, Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose linked the destiny of India with the destiny of Asia. He said, "the individual often must die if the nation has to live. And speaking for ourselves, we feel every day and every moment of our lives that who lives if India dies, who dies if India lives? That is the feeling that inspires us today and will inspire us tomorrow. We are prepared for a long and hard struggle . . . We are conscious at last of our historic part which India and the Indian people have to fulfill for themselves and for Asia and for India."

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His message read at the memorial service in honor of Filipino heroes held at the Mount Samat Cemetery, Bataan, on the same date carried a similar sentiment.

DEEPLY believing in the idea that independent nationhood would be meaningless and illusory if the Filipinos refused to work out their economic salvation, President Laurel issued Ordinances Nos. 1 and 2. The first deals with the control of the distribution of rice and corn, while the second provides for the cultivation of all available lands for the production of food crops. As supplements to the two ordinances, the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce issued Ministry Orders Nos. 32, 33, 34 and 35, all of which refer to the control and distribution of such essential commodities as rice and its by-products; corn and its by-products, tiki-tiki, mongo peanut, and fresh coconuts and the territorial application of Ordinance No. 1. The Kalibapi, as part of its food production drive, issued General Circular No. 12-2, a plan to devote home yards and rice lands after harvest to a cultivation of corn and root crops like camote, gabi, and tugi; fruits, beans, and vegetables in season.

PUTTING into effect his often repeated desire to perfect the administrative organization of the Government, President 'Laurel appointed Guillermo B. Francisco as Vice-Minister of Home Affairs and Director of the Constabulary, Dr. Gabriel Mañalac as Acting Minister of Education, Health, and Public Welfare, Jose G. Sanvictores as Acting Executive Secretary, Antonio Horrilleno as Justice of the Supreme Court, Arsenio Luz as Acting Assistant I Director-General of the Kalibapi,

Juan L. Lanting as Director of the Bureau of 1 Employment, and Manuel D. Sumulong as I Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Source: Office of the Solicitor General Library

President's Month in Review: December, 1943

The Official Month

THE program of reorganizing the Government has been pushed through with the issuance of Executive Orders Nos. 11, 12, and 24 and with the approval of Act No. 10. The first order prescribes new office hours, for government officers and employees to attain simplicity and efficiency in the service, and incidentally, partially to solve transportation problems; the second designates the rank of Director and Assistant Directors of the Constabulary; the third provides for the reorganization of ministries, bureaus, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Government of the Republic; while the act empowers the President to effect changes in the Government machinery.

DEEPLY concerned, as he has time and again said, with the national welfare, President Jose P. Laurel has this month created a Flood Control Board "to minimize the danger to life and damage to property caused by floods and the erosive action of rivers and the sea" and a Medicinal Plants Committee to popularize the use and culture of medicinal plants. In Administrative Order No. 9, he ordered the cultivation of all vacant, available lands in the country.

SPEAKING at the Medical Conference held on December 20, 1943, the President expressed the hope that Filipino men of science may discover medicinal plants to protect Filipinos from diseases.

THREE days later, he made happy many poor families and victims of war, when he gave a fete for indigent folk in Malacañan, distributing gifts among the less fortunate of his countrymen. Declared he in that fete, "Salamat mga kababayan, ipagpaumanhin ninyo ang mga maipamumudbod namin sa inyo, kung iyan man ay maliit, ang puso naman namin ang dala-dala ng mga maliliit na bagay na iyan."

THE following day, Malacañan received one million square yards of cotton cloth, a part of the gift of the Imperial Japanese Government to the Republic of the Philippines on the attainment of its independence. Malacañan announced that it intended to "distribute this gift principally in the provinces in order that the agrarian people will obtain a proper share of prime commodities."

AS the official charged to relieve the people of their hardships, the Food Administrator fixed the price of palay at ₱8 per cavan in the Provinces of Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Pangasinan, and Tarlac. He authorized the manager of the National Rice and Corn Corporation to issue permits to local government officials who need rice for the inhabitants of their respective districts.

PRESIDENT Laurel also signed Acts Nos. 13 and 14. The former prohibits "the cutting of fruit trees in any land, public or private, where there is located a spring which can be used for irrigation or water supply purposes"; the latter penalizes any injury on carabaos and cattle, which renders them unfit for work.

ORDER No. 1 of the Minister of Public Works and Communications regulates the schedule of fares for animal and human-drawn vehicles used for public hire, to enable operators to earn a reasonable income without forcing the public to pay exorbitant rates.

THE roll of appointments includes those of Pedro Sabido as Acting Executive Secretary and Jose G. Sanvictores as Food Administrator; of the members of the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo, Japan; of the directors and assistant directors of the Bureau of Political Affairs and Bureau of General Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and of the Chairman and Member of the newly-created Board of Nutritional Research.

TO attain peace and order, the President, on December 15, appealed to all Filipinos still engaged in *guerrilla* activities to take advantage of the General Amnesty Proclamation. Said he: "But our faith in these our countrymen who have not yet responded still remains unshaken. We have no quarrel with them. Fundamentally, we have one common cause. We have been separated from one another because we all love our freedom more than anything else. They want to keep that freedom in the way they believe is honorable and patriotic. And so do we. But it is clear now beyond argument that this freedom is here within the pale of law and order, where it is real, tangible, and fruitful, and not where they think it is, for it is only the ghost of liberty and freedom that walks with them in their solitary exile."

PROCLAMATION No. 5 provides for the redemption of notes issued by the Bank of the Philippines still remaining in circulation. Administrative Order No. 11 extends the period of registering emergency notes in Leyte to March 31, 1944.

FOUR celebrations were held this month. December 7 was Kalibapi Day, during which President Laurel said: "Our primordial duty at this time is to unite as a people and dedicate our total national strength to the building of a republic capable of fulfilling its obligations as a member of the federation of East Asiatic nations. This presupposes hard work. . . . But, water supply purposes"; the latter penalizes any injury on carabaos and cattle, which renders them unfit for work.

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December 8 was Greater East Asia Day. President Laurel enumerated the "binding tenets that should govern our life in these days of trial when realities must be met with ideals." He added: "The Government of the Republic has all the vital problems of the people at heart; we suffer with all those who suffer. But while we are determined to ameliorate the present living conditions of our masses with every means at our disposal and to the limit of our powers, our effort would not be completely successful unless the masses themselves cooperate with us, unless all of us respect each other's right to live decently and enjoy the fruits of his labor, unless all of us help each other mutually, unless some of us examine their conscience clearly and stop molesting those engaged in productive enterprise, unless some of us abandon their crass materialism and stop unscrupulously making profits at the expense of their fellowmen."

The appeal for unity embodied in this speech was reiterated in his talk on the propagation of the National Language.

On December 30 he rendered a tribute to the greatest Filipino hero and martyr. In his invocation to Dr. Jose Rizal, he said, ". . . from the high heavens where you are a now, we beseech you to pray for us Filipinos so that through your lessons, we may draw inspiration from your hardships and sacrifices. We pray you not to abandon us in this our hour of need so that we can in the midst of hardships, in the midst of hunger, save the poor and needy. Pray for us to God to whom you are so near, to give us courage in heart and spirit so that our Government may be directed according to His wishes, so that it may render service to the Filipino people, and so that your dream of independence may forever be cherished by us because during your lifetime the independence of your country is the same independence for which we have thirsted for many years."

EXECUTIVE Order No. 22 prescribes that the biography of the “Great Malayan” by Dr. Rafael Palma be a required textbook in all high schools, colleges, and universities, and that a competition be opened for the best translations of the biography into English and Tagalog.

OTHER presidential actions relative to national unity are the approval of Act No. 11, declaring as national cemetery, “Libangang Pambansa,” a portion of the Concentration Camp of Filipino Prisoners of War in Barrio O’Donnell, Capas, Tarlac; and Act No. 17, prescribing the Coat-of-Arms of the Republic of the Philippines. A black and white reproduction of the new Coat-of-Arms can be seen on the first page of this issue of the *Official Gazette*. The President also issued Executive Orders Nos. 17 and 18 dealing with the description, specifications, and the proper usage and display of the Filipino flag.

Source: Office of the Solicitor General Library

President's Month in Review: January, 1944

The Official Month

EVIDENCE showing that the Government desires to work out the economic salvation of the people are the issuance of Proclamation No. 10, "calling upon the students of public and private institutions of learning, the members of the Kalibapi, neighborhood associations, civic and religious organizations, and other elements of the community to actively assist in carrying out the campaign for greater food production" and the promulgation by the Food Administrator of Orders Nos. 7 to 16-A. Of the Food Administration orders, the first fixes the maximum prices of palay in various regions of Luzon; the second creates an organization to be in charge of controlling the production, supply and distribution of rice and such other cereals as the Food Administrator himself may, from time to time, determine; the third provides that the provisions of Act No. 9, known as the Food Administration Act, shall be enforced in the entire Philippines; the fourth provides for the compulsory cultivation of all private yards and vacant lots in Manila; the fifth, fixes the official prices of palay, rice and its by products in Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Pangasinan, and Manila; the sixth asks all fish producers to be members of fishery cooperative associations; the seventh provides for the registration of *hatirin*, bangus fingerlings, and restricts the catching and sale of bangus; the eighth demands the compulsory stocking of idle swimming pools, fountains, backyard ponds and other bodies of fish water with fresh water species of fish like *carp*, *pla-salit*, *sepatsiam* and *gourami*; the ninth provides for the registration of fishing boats and fishing gear and the control of fishing equipment, supplies and materials; the tenth fixes the maximum prices of fresh fish; and the last fixes the official prices of dried, smoked, or preserved fish.

In connection with the creation of the *Bigasang Bayan* as the body charged with the control of the production, supply, and distribution of rice and other cereals, His Excellency, President Jose P. Laurel, speaking before members of District and Neighborhood Associations at the Manila City Hall on January 5, 1944, declared that the NARIC—which the BIBA was going to replace—had outgrown its usefulness, and that a new organization would have to be created clothed with the same functions as its predecessor, but expected to supervise the production, supply, and distribution of those primary cereals which the people need in an efficient, methodical, and clean manner.

Believing that the campaign for more food can be accomplished if all Filipinos unite, the Board of Information, the creation of which is provided for under Executive Order No. 29, undertook to effect the provisions of Proclamation No. 11. Proclamation No. 11, specifies that the week from January 19 to 25, 1944, inclusive, be known as General Amnesty Week within which all citizens, public and private, must cooperate in convincing those members of guerrilla units to give up their present activities, return to their respective homes and help in the promotion of peace and in food production.

After the General Amnesty Week expired, the Board of Information was pleased to announce that it had accomplished its task with unexpected results. The Chairman and members of the General Amnesty Board who collaborated with the Board of Information were also cited for the yeoman spirit they showed in persuading *guerrilleros* to come down and join hands with the young Republic with a view to reconstructing the Philippines and restoring complete peace and order for the welfare, benefit and happiness of all the Filipino people. The Speaker of the National Assembly, as the campaign was going on, also delivered a speech over Station PIAM, during the course of which he appealed "to all our countrymen who still entertain doubts and misgivings concerning the present government of our country" to join the rest of the nation in the great movement to promote the progress of the Philippines and other East Asian nations.

In a statement he issued on January 29, 1944, President Laurel expressed his gratitude to the *guerrilleros* and to other political offenders who had availed themselves of the General Amnesty Proclamation. He said, "I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for this great step you have taken. It lightens so much the more the burden of pursuing the common task of building a new nation that is worthy of our affection and undying loyalty. With you I am happy to share the privilege of carrying on with this great responsibility. I am confident, now that you have pledged yourselves to a life of peace and cooperation, that you will do your very best cheerfully and courageously to assume the obligations that will be yours in strengthening our solidarity as a people, observing the most faithful discipline in so far as it will enhance the common welfare."

While appeals for more food production occupied the attention of the people, the reorganization of the administrative and judicial machinery of the Government went on. On January 3, 1944, Act No. 20, appropriating “funds for the operation of the Republic of the Philippines during the fiscal year ending December 31, 1944, and for other purposes” was approved. Executive Order No. 28, “requiring all government officers and employees whose appointments are not by the Constitution vested in the President to vacate their positions”; Executive Order No. 27, reorganizing the Court of Appeals and Courts of First Instance; Executive Order No. 29, creating the Board of Information; Executive Order No. 30, changing the designations of the Director and Assistant Directors of Constabulary and prescribing a new schedule of salaries therefor and for the other commissioned officers of the Philippine Constabulary; and Executive Order No. 32, transferring the powers, duties, and functions of the board of directors of government owned or controlled corporations to the Office of the President, were issued. On January 12, 1944, newly-appointed Minister and Vice-Minister of Health, Labor and Public Welfare, Emiliano Tria Tirona and Ramon Macasaet, respectively, took their oath of office.

The Government program to advance the study and propagation of the national language was pushed forward further as the Ministry of Education opened a school to be devoted to the teaching of Tagalog. In a message he sent at the opening of the school, the President had this to say to its students: “Hinggil sa ating wikang pambansa, na nasa yugto ng kaunlaran, kayo, gaya rin nang dati, ang siyang mga pangunahing tagapagtaguyod. Buhat sa paaralang ito kayo ay palalabasin sa kaukulang panahon na lubos nang sanay at nakahanda upang ikalat ang mga bagong aralin sa pinakamalayo at pinakatagong sulok ng inyong bansa na ang Republika ng Pilipinas ay may sariling wika na ngayon, na siyang makapaghahayag ng mga kaisipan at lunggatiin ng mga mamamayan, at ang wikang iyan, sa pamamagitan ng masusing mga pag-aaral at mga pagpapayaman, ay siyang magiging wika ng mga batang Pilipino na hindi pa isinisilang sa pagka’t ito na ngayon ang wikang panlahat ng buong bansa.” Of our national language, now happily on an advanced stage of perfection, you are, as it were, the first national torchbearers. From this institute you will be sent out in due time fully trained and equipped to spread to the farthest nooks and corners of your country the new gospel that the Republic of the Philippines has now a language of its own, expressive of the people’s thoughts and aspirations, and that language, through scientific study and cultivation, will be the language of the Filipino children yet unborn as it is now the official language of the entire nation.

This month, the Bureau of Forestry issued Administrative Order No. 2-R, which sets forth rules and regulations governing the issuance of permits to open, reopen, and to start the operation of sawmills, and other woodworking industries. The Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources issued Order No. 9-1, which fixes the maximum retail price of locally-made cigarettes. The Ministry of Finance issued Order No. 1 containing rules and regulations governing the redemption of the currency notes of the Bank of the Philippine Islands remaining in circulation, while the Bureau of Customs and Internal Revenue issued four general circulars dealing with the income tax provisions found in the National Internal Revenue Code.

Source: Office of the Solicitor General Library

President's Month in Review; January, 1944

The Official Month

EVIDENCE showing that the Government desires to work out the economic salvation of the people are the issuance of Proclamation No. 10, "calling upon the students of public and private institutions of learning, the members of the Kalibapi, neighborhood associations, civic and religious organizations, and other elements of the community to actively assist in carrying out the campaign for greater food production" and the promulgation by the Food Administrator of Orders Nos. 7 to 16-A. Of the Food Administration orders, the first fixes the maximum prices of palay in various regions of Luzon; the second creates an organization to be in charge of controlling the production, supply and distribution of rice and such other cereals as the Food Administrator himself may, from time to time, determine; the third provides that the provisions of Act No. 9, known as the Food Administration Act, shall be enforced in the entire Philippines; the fourth provides for the compulsory cultivation of all private yards and vacant lots in Manila; the fifth, fixes the official prices of palay, rice and its byproducts in Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Pangasinan, and Manila; the sixth asks all fish producers to be members of fishery cooperative associations; the seventh provides for the registration of *hatirin*, bangus fingerlings, and restricts the catching and sale of bangus; the eighth demands the compulsory stocking of idle swimming pools, fountains, backyard ponds and other bodies of fish water with fresh water species of fish like *carp*, *pla-salit*, *sepatsiam* and *gourami*; the ninth provides for the registration of fishing boats and fishing gear and the control of fishing equipment, supplies and materials; the tenth fixes the maximum prices of fresh fish; and the last fixes the official prices of dried, smoked, or preserved fish.

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President's Month in Review: February, 1944

The Official Month

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Act No. 23 is but one of many laws passed by the National Assembly before it closed its regular sixty-day session on February 2, 1944. The legislative body came in for high praise for having passed bills to meet the urgent and emergency problems of the nation. Of its work, His Excellency, President Jose P. Laurel, said: "Judging from its achievements to date, it is to be expected that the future sessions of the Assembly will be even more fruitful and effective in giving concrete evidence of the leadership, loyalty, and patriotism of Speaker Benigno S. Aquino and his colleagues. When the members of the National Assembly rejoin their respective constituencies, they will be in a better position to give fresh impulse and creative direction to the vast project of nation-building. They have acquired and developed the necessary perspective born of an epoch the complexity of whose problems constitutes the very measure of their opportunities."

The National Assembly passed the following bills on taxation which were approved by the President: Act No. 21, imposing a percentage tax on subsequent sales of commodities, goods, wares, and merchandise; Act No. 24, imposing a school and residence tax; Act No. 25, imposing a specific tax on matches and playing cards; Act No. 26, making taxes on franchises uniform; Act No. 27, imposing percentage taxes on keepers of hotels, lodging houses, restaurants, cafes, refreshment parlors, roof gardens, night clubs, bars, grills, and on proprietors, promoters, lessees or operators of theaters, cinematographs, concert halls, circuses, boxing or wrestling exhibitions, cabarets, race tracks, cockpits, Jai-Alai and other places of amusement; Act No. 28, imposing stamp taxes on mortgages, pledges, and deeds of trust as well as on deeds of sale and conveyances of real property; Act No. 29, imposing charges on timber cut in public forests; Act No. 30, increasing the rates of inheritance tax; Act No. 38, increasing charges of registration of large cattle; Act No. 40, subjecting sales made to the Government, etc., to the payment of internal revenue taxes; Act No. 52, imposing an occupation fee for mining claims; and Act No. 59, imposing a fixed tax on business, percentage taxes upon proprietors or operators of rope factories, sugar centrals, rice mills, coconut oil mills, corn mills, and desiccated coconut factories, percentage tax on "road, building, irrigation, artesian well, waterworks, and other construction work contractors, proprietors or operators of dockyards and others, and a percentage tax on stock, real estate, commercial, customs, and immigration brokers.

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President's Month in Review: March, 1944

The Official Month

THE readjustment of the Government machinery continues with the issuance of Executive Order No. 41, which extends until May 1, 1944, the period in which presidential appointees may continue in their respective positions; Ordinance No. 7, creating Courts of Special and Exclusive Criminal Jurisdiction to try crimes and offenses penalized by Act No. 65; Ordinance No. 11, placing associations of insurance companies under the supervision of the Bureau of Credits and Investments; and Administrative Order No. 19, which deals with the appointment and assignment of employees in connection with the reorganization; and with the approval of Act No. 62, which provides rules regarding the filling of vacancies in the National Assembly.

ACT NO. 65 is entitled "An Act imposing heavier penalties for crimes involving robbery, bribery, falsification, frauds, illegal exactions and transactions, malversation of public funds and infidelity as defined in the Revised Penal Code and violations of food control laws, when committed by public officers and employees, and for similar offenses when committed by private individuals or entities, and providing for a summary procedure for the trial of such offenders."

To carry out the purposes embodied in Ordinance No. 7 and Act No. 65, His Excellency, President Jose P. Laurel, appointed Judges and Special Prosecutors of the newly-created Courts of Special Criminal Jurisdiction.

SPEAKING at the induction into office of Messrs. Gaudencio Garcia and Pastor M. Endencia as Judges and Gregorio Narvasa and Arturo M. Tolentino as Special Prosecutors under Ordinance No. 7, President Laurel told the appointees that the service they can render to the Republic of the Philippines is to prosecute those persons who, though rich, want "to grow richer at the expense of the masses of our people." This intention arises from the violation of food control laws, punishable under Act No. 65.

The roll of Presidential appointments also includes those of Apolinario S. de Leon and Cesareo H. Grau as National Treasurer and Assistant National Treasurer, respectively; directors and assistant directors of different bureaus; and the members of the Advisory Board on Labor, and the Board of Review, created under Ordinance No. 9.

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It will be seen that the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Administrative Order No. 43 designated Mr. Hilarion S. Silayan, Assistant to the Ministry, as General Manager of the National Food Production Campaign, and in Ministry Special Order No. 21, made a special assignment of personnel for the National Food Production Office.

These designations are in line with the avowed intention of the Government to increase food production. Minister of Agriculture and Commerce Rafael K. Alunan, in fact, timed a speech of his when in conjunction with the 53rd anniversary of the birthday of His Excellency, the President, he said: ". . . let us hail the significance of our President's birthday by dedicating ourselves to the enhancement of the well-being of our people and the progress of our Republic towards its destiny. Let us cooperate with the President in his endeavor to save us from hunger and starvation. Our pressing problem today is food. With a cooperative spirit and united efforts, we will produce what we need, and produce it in abundance."

SPEAKING same occasion, which keynoted the nationwide observance of his birthday anniversary, President Laurel placed squarely before the Filipino people the immediate problem of the country, to survive the present supreme test in the production of foodstuffs, and appealed to each and every citizen to be true and loyal and to do his best to carry out the greater food production campaign.

* * *

FOUR days later, he issued Ordinance No. 8, which creates the Consumers' Cooperative Associations in the City of Manila because of the "urgent necessity to supply rice and other prime commodities to the people of the City of Manila."

IN Order No. 42, the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources made a detailed explanation of the rules and regulations governing the recruitment of able-bodied persons for civilian emergency service in food production, while in Order No. 44, he created an advisory committee on food production. Related to these acts are the promulgation by the Food Administrator of Order No. 22, fixing the maximum selling prices of brown and washed sugar in Manila; Order No. 23-A, fixing

the maximum selling prices of imported cigarettes; Order No. 24, designating bodies to handle cases involving violations of control measures; Order No. 25, fixing the official maximum prices of live animals and the wholesale and retail prices of meat; Order No. 26, fixing the maximum prices for fishing equipment, supplies and materials in the City of Manila; and Order No. 28, fixing the maximum selling prices of salt in Manila. In connection with Food Administration Order No. 25, there is published in this issue Ordinance No. 5, prohibiting the slaughter or killing of carabaos.

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Two decrees elaborating Act No. 18, providing for the issue of bonds of the Republic of the Philippines the proceeds of which will be used in the restoration and maintenance of public peace and order, and for such other purposes as may be authorized by law, are Executive Order No. 40 and Ordinance No. 10. The first prescribes rules and regulations in connection with the issuance and sale of the bonds; while the second authorizes building and loan associations to invest their funds in bonds issued or guaranteed by the Republic of the Philippines.

* * *

THE reasons set forth in the promulgation of Executive Order No. 44, prescribing certain principles of higher education, are that: (1) higher education should serve as an instrument of Philippine nationalism by nurturing thorough knowledge and true appreciation of Philippine history and culture; (2) the Filipino youth should examine the innumerable questions raised by the present war; namely, international relations, economics, political science, sociology, and other subjects; (3) the need for coordination of functions and elimination of duplication of activities of higher institutions of learning; (4) the necessity to familiarize (5) teachers, particularly elementary school teachers, with the ideals and objectives of the nation and to imbue them with the declared policies of the State; and (5) the renewal of the sense of confidence and the atmosphere of normalcy among the people.

ACT NO. 64 provides that ₱250,000 be set aside for the reconstruction and repair of primary, intermediate, and high-school buildings.

ON March 1, 1944, Administrative Order No. 18, creating a Pensionado Selection Committee to take charge of the selection of government pensionados to study in Japan, was promulgated. As the Training Institute for Government Pensionados to Japan got under way, President Laurel addressed the pensionados, first on March 29, 1944, when they called on him at Malacañan, and second on March 30, 1944, at their opening exercises. On the first occasion the President declared: "The great need of the Philippines and of the Filipinos is the comprehension of the fundamental objectives of the world conflict which is going on. When two people meet, there is likely to be smoke of some kind of misunderstanding. And the misunderstanding is due to the fact that they have not known each other very closely. . . .

"IT is necessary for young Filipinos to go to Japan in order that they may understand the whole background of this world movement now taking place all over the world; to understand not only Japan but also her culture, her great mission, and her lofty ideals. If the peoples of Greater East Asia could understand one another and realize that they have their own role to play in the history of human civilization; if they could realize that they are not destined by God to remain always under the exploitation and domination of Occidental powers; if they could realize they have a right to be happy and prosperous and to live their own way of life; if they could realize that there is no Japanese, no Chinese, no Burmese, no Indian and no Manchoukuan, but only Orientals,—if they realize these essential and significant truths, then every one of them would resist any attempt on the part of outsiders to dominate this part of the world God has reserved for us."

* * *

On the second occasion, he told the pensionados that in their preliminary training, they must Only think of one loyalty, a supreme one, the loyalty to the motherland. "I would have you remember at all times that you are the receivers of a priceless heritage the rich tradition of heroism and service to the motherland, and that it is your primary duty to be worthy of your heritage as you prepare yourselves for the continuation of the great work started by our fathers."

OTHER important decrees formulated this month are Act No. 63, which deals with the condonation of unpaid taxes on real property; Act No. 66, increasing the share of the Government in wager funds from the sale of betting tickets in horse races and Jai-Alai; Executive Order No. 38,

creating a Central Housing Committee to take charge of requests of the Imperial Japanese Forces for housing accommodations in the City of Manila and to establish procedures thereof; Executive Order No. 42, prescribing rules and regulations requiring compulsory savings from salaries of persons in excess of what is necessary for their living expenses and of those of their dependents; Executive Order No. 43, prescribing the office hours to be observed in the different bureaus and offices of the Government, including provincial, city, and municipal governments; Ordinance No. 12, prohibiting the manufacture, sale and other disposition of rank insignias, ornaments, buttons, medals, pins, belts, buckles, brassards, chevrons and other distinctive insignias officially adopted for use in different government offices and instrumentalities without contract or permit to do so from proper authority, and penalizing violations thereof.

Source: Office of the Solicitor General Library

President's Month in Review: April, 1944

The Official Month

INTENSIFYING the execution of a fundamental objective—the proper reconstruction of the national economy to measure the self-sufficiency of the nation—is the promulgation of I Executive Order No. 46, which creates an Economic Planning Board to be headed by the Honorable Manuel A. Roxas. The Board, under the order, shall formulate and prescribe policies for the Office of the Food Administrator. Closely related to Executive Order No 46 are Executive Orders Nos. 48 and 49. The first provides for a Board of Directors for the *Biqasang-Bayan*, a new body charged with the control of rice distribution, and successor of the National Rice and Corn Corporation; the second amends Ordinance No. 1 which deals with the control of the distribution of rice and corn in view of the approval by His Excellency, Jose P. Laurel, President of the Republic of the Philippines, of the plan recommended by the Economic Planning Board regarding the control of the supply, procurement, movement, transfer, sale and distribution of rice throughout the Philippines.

ORDINANCE No. 15 prohibits the destruction of trees bearing edible fruits growing in public or private lands and providing penalties for violations thereof.

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RESPONSIBLE for the facilitation of the distribution of rice and other prime commodities, the Food Administrator issued Order No. 29 dealing with the organization and operation of the Manila Consumers' Cooperative Associations established by Ordinance No. 8. The Food Administrator also issued Order No. 30, the title of which follows: Rules and regulations governing the supply, procurement, movement, transfer, sale and distribution of rice, corn, mongo, peanut, and beans; prohibiting certain officials and agents of Government entities and agencies and other associations from restricting the free movement of these commodities; and prescribing the allowance of one cavan per person from May 1 to December 31, 1944. The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Ministry Special Order No. 20 designated Eugenio de Vera to take charge of the Bureau of Agricultural Development.

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FOR the purpose of attending to the needs of the Imperial Japanese Forces for laborers to work in their various projects throughout the Philippines and at the same time of relieving unemployment, Executive Order No. 47, creates a Labor Recruitment Agency, to be placed under the direct supervision of the Minister of Health, Labor and Public Welfare. The same Minister was appointed Chairman of the Labor Day Committee, created under Administrative Order No. 20, to take charge of the celebration of Labor Day to be held on May 6, 1944. In a message read by the Honorable Arsenio N. Luz, Chairman of the Board of Information, to the Labor Institute of we Kalibapi at the opening of its sixth term, His Excellency, President Jose P. Laurel reminded the delegates to the institute that the "New Order is committed to the principle that the welfare of the community is superior to the welfare of the individual and, for this reason, the individual should find his greatest happiness in working for the welfare of all. The understanding of this principle is basic to our survival as a people. We can ill-afford to neglect it if we believe that we have a glorious destiny ahead of us."

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MANIFESTATION of the policy to attain a simple, economical and efficient government machinery is the issuance of Executive Order No. 45 and Administrative Order No. 21. Executive Order No. 45 amends the procedure in the matter of appointments and promotions of subordinate officers and employees, while Administrative Order No. 21 lengthily dwells with the rules and regulations governing the provincial assignments of officials and employees in accordance with paragraph 6 of Administrative Order No 19 dated March 7, 1944.

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ON April 8, 1944, the President issued Ordinance No. 13, integrating all researches, organizing a Council of Scientists and a Research Advisory Board, and setting aside funds for the purpose, saying that there is an urgent necessity of establishing a national research center with a view to intensifying and coordinating all scientific researches and investigations, not only with the laudable end in view of contributing to the sum total of human knowledge, but for the more practical purpose of solving our immediate problems connected with food, clothing, shelter, medicine,

industry and economic reconstruction. Expounding the role that the Filipino scientist must play in the present emergency, President Laurel declared, in a speech before Filipino scientists on April 14, 1944, that the Government is disposed to give full support to any scientific plan of solving the primordial problems of nutrition, medicine, and other essential needs of our suffering population. He added that the sum of P500,000 is already available to the Council of Scientists for whatever scientific discovery or plan it may map out to ameliorate the present conditions arising from the need of medicinal products, and that he is willing to appropriate any time an additional sum of P1,500,000 to enable the Council to fulfill its important mission.

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CONNECTED with this problem of solving the physical needs of the people is the problem of their education. In two speeches on April 17, 1944, the Chief Executive urged Filipino educators that "*the primary course should be made as rich and complete as possible so as to make the primary or elementary school a real university for the masses*. This should be the case because the masses have no opportunity to pursue higher education for many reasons, either because they are too poor or because they have to engage early in life in the actual pursuit of earning a living. The Filipino boy or girl who finishes these veritable universities for the masses must meet the following two-fold requirements for which the primary grades must have prepared them: (1) character education, and (2) vocational education."

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ORDINANCE No. 14, providing for the continuance of the liquidation of the Teachers' Retirement and Disability Fund as provided in Commonwealth Acts Nos. 187 and 237, was promulgated on April 12, 1944, in order to help many retired teachers who are in dire need of immediate financial relief.

PREOCCUPIED with the problems that attend the formation of a national language, President Laurel, in an address delivered at the former Philippine Normal School in connection with the celebration of Balagtas Day, declared that a nation aspiring to become great and strong must have only one language which can be understood by all, and enriching the language does not mean coining new words which no one can understand. "Read *Florante at Laura* and you will discover that its greatest worth lies in the simplicity of its language easily understood by all," he said.

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IMPORTANT appointments for this month include those of Dr. Camilo Osias as Vice-President and Director General of the *Kapisanan sa Paglilingkod sa Bagong Pilipinas* (Association for Service to the New Philippines); of Manuel A. Roxas as Chairman and Rafael R. Alunan, Jose G. Sanvictores, Jose Paez, and Vicente Singson Encarnacion as Members of the Board of Directors of the *Bigasang Bayan* (Biba); and of the Honorable, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as Chairman, and Generals Juan Cailles, Mateo Capinpin, and Jose de los Reyes, and the Honorable, the Chairman of the Council of State as members of the Board of Awards and Decorations. The Board of Awards and Decorations was created by Ordinance No. 16 which also created the Order of Tirad Pass and prescribes rules and regulations for its award. This ordinance provides that the Order of Tirad Pass is to be awarded by the President to "any member of the Philippine Constabulary who has or had performed acts of extraordinary heroism or meritorious services of exceptional character in the line of duty and who has or had proved himself to be a model of gallantry, courage, bravery and devotion to duty in the defense of the integrity of the Philippines, the existence of the Government, the honor and dignity of the Republic, in the maintenance of peace and order, and in the preservation of the unity of the Filipino people."

This appeal for the preservation of national unity was also repeated in a message of the President to the Convention of Provincial Governors, Constabulary Inspectors, Municipal Mayors and Kalibapi leaders in the City of Cebu. "I ask each and all members of the convention and those under them," said the President, "to help their Government in uniting our people, in restoring peace and order, and in producing all foodstuffs our country needs. Let us all be one in our national aspiration and endeavor whatever political differences we may have had or now have."

A message of the same tenor was also read before the graduates of the Commissioned Officers' Class of the Philippine Constabulary on April 12, 1944.

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THREE days later, the Philippine Gratitude Mission, headed by Honorable Benigno S. Aquino, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to the Empire of Japan, was feted at Malacañan. The purpose of the mission, it was explained, was two-fold: "First, to express to His August Majesty the Emperor of Japan as well as to the Government of His August Majesty and to the great people of Japan, the undying gratitude of eighteen million Filipinos for everything that Japan has done for the Philippines—particularly for the grant of the coveted boon of political freedom, which has been the supreme aspiration of the Filipinos for centuries. Second, to enable the Filipinos, through this mission, to get in closer contact with the Japanese Government and people, through their leaders. By getting together and developing mutual understanding, the people of Greater East

Asia can make of the Hemispheric Bloc an end instrument of world peace and progress."

The record of the special mission can be followed in the different speeches of Ambassador Aquino who, after having been granted an audience and awarded the First Class Order of the Rising Sun by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan on April 21, 1944, stated that "It was truly a rare privilege for us to be bearers of the message of good will from His Excellency, the President of the Republic of the Philippines, and to be the agents of the Filipino people in expressing their profound gratitude for the recognition of the independence of our country and the conclusion of the Pact of Alliance between the magnanimous Empire of Dai Nippon and the Republic of the Philippines."

At the banquet he gave welcoming the mission His Excellency, General Hideki Tozjo, Premier of Japan, reviewed the concerted efforts of Filipino leaders from the first days when Japan unfurled "its banner of crusade for the liberation of the peoples of East Asia" to the present, and expressed the hope that as Japan marches steadily onward to effect a complete victory in the war of liberation, "the people of the Philippines will on their part render even greater efforts to cooperate with Nippon for the purpose of winning this war and building Greater East Asia."

In reply, Ambassador Aquino reiterated "the unshakable loyalty of our people to the cause of Japan which is the common cause of all East Asians." Said he: "Our loyalty, illustrious Premier, is not founded on any design of aggrandizement or enrichment, nor on any interest in the realization of our sacred ideals of liberty and independence, because they have already been attained. It is founded on the conviction that our independence would be 'only for a day' if the Japanese Empire did not obtain in this war a complete and final victory. Only with that victory can our Co-Existence and Co-Prosperity Sphere be consolidated, a consolidation which shall serve as the impregnable wall for the preservation of the independence of all the nations which it protects. What is of importance to the Filipinos as well as to all East Asians is not ephemeral independence but one that is lasting and real."

The following day, he said that what matters to the Philippines and "to all her sister nations in the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere is an enduring independence and this cannot be attained without the complete and final victory of Japan in this war, because only that victory can cement, strengthen, and solidify, until they become impregnable, the bulwarks of our Sphere."

INCLUDED in the *Foreign Affairs* section of this Gazette are speeches by Philippine Ambassador to Japan Jorge B. Vargas delivered in the month of March. In his speech before the Federation of South Seas Associations, Ambassador Vargas reviewed the events in the Philippines before and after the fall of Manila, and explained that "the Filipinos are only too willing to do their part in promoting mutual understanding and goodwill. If the Republic of the Philippines has entered into a firm and fast and all-inclusive alliance with Nippon, it has been due not only to a natural sentiment of gratitude for the boon of independence, but also to a sincere enthusiasm for the ideals which Nippon pursues in the present war, the ideals which found such eloquent expression in the Greater East Asia Declaration last year." In the address he delivered before the Seiwaki on March 20, 1944, he outlined the three requirements of economic cooperation between Philippines and Japan, while his address before the Philippine Society of Japan stressed a Nippon-Philippine collaboration based justice and understanding.

Source: Office of the Solicitor General Library

President's Month in Review: May, 1944

The Official Month

TO LAY EMPHASIS on the importance and dignity of labor and to focus the attention of our laborers to their great responsibility in the present task of rehabilitation and reconstruction," Proclamation No. 17 was promulgated on the first day of May. This proclamation called upon all Filipinos to perform manual labor on Labor Day which was set aside on May 6, 1944. The day was capped with a speech of His Excellency Jose P Laurel, President of the Republic of the Philippines, in which he reiterated the guiding principle of his administration—to establish a form of practical social justice, particularly the beneficial to the poor and working classes.

"I ask you," he said, "to please have faith in this Republic and this Government, and the Government will have faith in you, and be able to do things for you. Do not take matters into your hands and try to remedy situations according to what you consider your reason."

SPEAKING on the same day, Honorable Emiliano Tria Tirona, Minister of State for Labor, Health, and Public Welfare, analyzed the labor policies of the Government and enjoined his countrymen to dedicate themselves to the attainment of these policies which are aimed at their welfare. There are hectares upon hectares of agricultural lands, he pointed out, waiting to be tilled by willing hands and if only each individual would engage himself in more work, the country will never feel the inadequacy of foodstuffs as it does.

RELATED to this problem of greater food production was the statement issued May 13, 1944, by the Honorable Arsenio N. Luz, Chairman of the Board of Information, announcing the Government's attitude towards rice profiteers. "The Government wishes to advise all concerned that unless they come to reason and help serve the paramount and supreme interest of our people, as well as its humanitarian objective, it shall be constrained to use force not only to control but to confiscate all the available supply of rice to save the suffering masses of our population from hunger and starvation."

UNDER Executive Order No. 55, the Food Administrator was ordered to immediately take possession of all stocks of palay or rice except amounts thereof as may be needed for consumption by families and their dependents.

BESIDES putting into effect the purpose of this Executive Order, the Food Administrator issued Orders Nos. 31 to 38. Food Administration Order No. 31 deals with rules and regulations governing the licensing and operation of rice mills; Food Administration Order No. 32, revokes Food Administration Orders Nos. 5 and 21 and all other orders fixing the maximum official prices of dried, preserved, smoked, and cured fish; Food Administration Order No. 33 requires all persons, companies, associations or corporations to report the quantity of rice in their respective possessions; Food Administration Order No. 34 fixes the official maximum prices of palay and rice in certain provinces and cities; Food Administration Order No. 35 deals with the seizure of food and other necessities; Food Administration Order No. 36 fixes the official maximum prices of laundry soap, lard and edible oil; Food Administration Order No. 37 fixes the official maximum prices of fresh camote in certain provinces and in Manila; and Food Administration Order No. 38 fixes the official prices of matches.

PURSUANT to the Government policy of alleviating the living conditions of the masses, the President ordered the distribution of gifts of clothing fabrics to the indigent people of Pasig, Rizal, on May 10, 1944; to the poor people of Bulacan on May 24, 1944; and to those of Imus, Cavite on May 28, 1944.

AS HE rightly said in his message to the people of Bulacan, "this distribution of clothing today is one of the acts that will testify to my pursuance of the Government policy of alleviating the living conditions of the masses.

"I tell you honestly that, if the Government were only rich enough, I would personally give away not only cash but also other prime necessities of life; for it is my earnest desire that, if your President is enjoying comfort and security, everyone also should enjoy comfort and security. No

man has the right to want ease for himself alone while his fellows are in the throes of suffering and starvation.”

THE PEOPLE of Bulacan were also the recipients of a message from His Excellency in connection with the posthumous award of the “Order of Tirad Pass” to a *Bulakeño*, the late General Gregorio H. del Pilar, which order was received by the General’s sister, Andrea H. del Pilar. “I would like the example set by General Del Pilar to be a lodestar brightly illuminating the paths our youths shall tread. These are times that call for men who have the qualities of the Hero of Tirad Pass. A country whose young men are proud to share the honors accorded the Hero of Tirad Pass, is a country that will never fall into misfortune and will never be enslaved.”

“THE Order of Tirad Pass” was also awarded on Constabulary Day, May 4, 1944, to fifteen Constabulary soldiers. The President declared on that day that among the Filipino people there are and there will always be men who will not hesitate to lay down their lives for the Motherland beyond the call of duty as exemplified by General Del Pilar and his gallant men at historic Tirad Pass in 1839. At the same time he announced the promulgation of Executive Order No. 50, increasing the base pay of noncommissioned personnel of the Philippine Constabulary.

THE promulgation of Ordinance No. 18, establishing a national youth brotherhood to be known as the “Kabataang Pangarap ni Rizal” is in keeping with the intense concern of the Administration to develop in this country a new type of citizenry which takes into account our heroic tradition. Executive Order No. 51 creates an Advisory Board for the *Kabataang Pangarap ni Rizal*.

IN CONNECTION with the desire of the Government to strengthen the Kalibapi as the people’s party called upon to effectively support the Government in its policies and render its help to better insure the attainment of the ideals and objectives of the Republic, Ordinance No. 17 was issued, revising Executive Order No. 109, dated December 4, 1942, as amended by Executive Order No. 156, dated May 18, 1943, establishing a national service association to be known as “Kapisanan sa Paglilingkod sa Bagong Pilipinas.”

ON THE same day this Ordinance was issued, the Honorable Benigno S. Aquino, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Head of the Philippine Gratitude Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the Empire of Japan, was in Manchoukuo on his way to the Philippines. The mission arrived here on May 8, after accomplishing its mission, that of expressing “to His Majesty the Emperor of Japan the undying gratitude of eighteen million Filipinos for Japan’s recognition of the independence of the Philippines and for the conclusion of the Pact of Alliance between the two countries.”

NINE days later, Speaker Aquino was inducted into office as Vice President and Director General of the Kalibapi. Director General Aquino promised that “the Kalibapi will go to the people. Its schools will be public plazas all over the country. Its mission will be to galvanize the people into realizing and fully enjoying the blessings of independence.”

DR. CAMILO OSIAS who had been acting as Director General of the Kalibapi was shifted to head the Ministry of Education.

The President declared that “the selection of Dr. Osias is doubly fortunate: first, because he is until today the Director General of the Kalibapi, and second, because he is one of our foremost educators qualified by learning and experience and devotion to the country to be at the head of this important Ministry.”

AFTER his induction into office, Dr. Osias delivered brief remarks before the Directors of bureaus and offices of his Ministry. Said he: “The occasion is most opportune for a clarification of our spiritual perspective through a clear-cut statement of the basic philosophy that should give impulse and direction to our educational and cultural endeavors. . . .

“One of the paramount needs of the Filipino people is Spiritual orientation. Education, though not the sole agency, is a very potent one to effect such an orientation.

ANOTHER change in the educational program of the Government was the issuance of Executive Order No. 54, providing for a semestral instead of quarterly calendar for all schools and fixing the date of the commencement of the school year 1944-45 for the purpose of reducing the mental and physical hardship on both teachers and students, which they experienced under the quarterly system, and of enabling the students to help on the farm, particularly during the rice planting season and rice harvesting season.

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THE forty-first anniversary of the death of Apolinario Mabini, the “Sublime Paralytic” and the “brains” of the Philippine Revolution was fittingly observed on May 13. The President had this to say in connection with the observance of the occasion: “The life of Mabini is both a rebuke and an encouragement to us today. It is a rebuke to a situation that needs more of discipline, abnegation, work, loyalty, determination and sacrifice. It is an encouragement in that Mabini, by doing as he did, as a human being and as a Filipino, has proved to us that we also, who are descended from him, should no less be capable, and on a bigger scale, because our opportunities and advantages are bigger and better. Once upon a time, Mabini walked on this blessed land of ours. Why should we expect less today? We should strive to be more worthy.”

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THE appointments for this month include those of Dominador M. Tan as Assistant Director General of the Kalibapi; Teodoro P. de Vera, Director of Local Branches of the Kalibapi; Vicente Lontok, Director of the Bureau of General Affairs of the Kalibapi; Jose Delgado Director-at-Large of the same body with station in Cebu; of Paulino Gullas as Commissioner for the Visayas and General Paulino Santos as Commissioner for Mindanao and Sulu; of Jose D. Ingles as Second Assistant Executive Secretary; and of the members of the Council of Scientists.

Source: Office of the Solicitor General Library

President's Month in Review: June, 1944

The Official Month

THE PROBLEM of national unity which has occupied the Administration since its inception received considerable attention this month when during the award of prizes to the winners of the National Symbol Contest, under the auspices of the City Government of Manila His Excellency, the President, intimated that as he passes sleepless nights in this time of nave crisis, he prays: "Oh God, give us something of your hidden power, something of that which is Divine which would fill the heart of every living Filipino, by which the division of Filipinos would be remedied by some such inherent power and authority. Give us, O God our symbol of unity to avoid fratricidal strife amongst Filipinos, so that we may glorify You and after You the great heroes that have given us and bequeathed us real independence, a government of Filipinos and for Filipinos."

THE Honorable Claro M. Recto, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, who spoke on the same occasion, declared that "this contest is concerned with what may be properly described as the crucial problem confronting us in these trying days—the problem of national unity. For it is not to be denied that the one thing we most imperatively need today is a spiritual force capable of tempering our collective will and of binding the eighteen million people of our land that may move like an army on the march, along the high road of their common destiny, towards a single objective." He said that although there have been given a variety of good suggestions, "the symbol is yet to be."

ON June 19 all classes were suspended in accordance with Administrative Order No. 23, and on that day President Laurel issued a message in connection with the 83rd birthday anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal, Filipino martyr and patriot. "It is part of the enduring validity of Dr. Jose Rizal," said he, "as the highest spirit most representative of our race that his stature rises in dignity and distinction according as his countrymen grow in their knowledge of his life and deeds." Under Proclamation No. 18, June 19th of every year has been declared Kapariz Day. Calling the youth fair hopes of the Fatherland as Rizal did, President Laurel declared that the officials and the leaders of the Philippines who are serving the country with undoubted patriotism and to the best of their ability will soon pass from the scene, burdened as they are with responsibilities and duties. It is for this reason, he said, that there is need of preparing the youths and making them see their way clear to serving their country.

ON the opening day of the Convention of Division Superintendents of Schools, June 26, 1944, this concern for service was laid by President Laurel before me delegates. "You cannot be useful teachers," they were told, "unless you believe in the Republic of the Philippines. That is the starting point. You cannot be a teacher unless you believe in the capacity and the ability of the Filipino people to run their own affairs, and you cannot be a teacher unless you believe that the Filipinos should be left alone to live a life of their own in the midst of difficulties and shortcomings.

You cannot be a teacher unless you are determined to make this Republic live and survive. If you do not have this political objective and educational orientation, you cannot be a teacher because you have nothing fundamental to impart to the Filipino youth."

THE Honorable Camilo Osias, Minister of State for Education, succinctly summarized at the convention the fundamental educational policy of the Republic in these words: "The ultimate aim of education in the Philippines is to secure for the individual and the nation, through life-centered activities and materials, the greatest possible measure of efficiency, self-direction and happiness."

As further proof of the desire of the Government to remedy the misery of the people, Executive Order No. 62, establishing the National Commodities Procurement and Distribution Corporation, was issued. Appointed to head the control body, which succeeds the Philippine Prime Commodities Distribution Control Association was Leopoldo R. Aguinaldo who, upon his induction into office, said that the basic objective of the Nadisco, namely to place commodities in the hands of those really in need, can only be achieved with "the cooperation of the public, the spirit of self-renunciation which must prevail among all."

RELATED to the work of the Nadisco are the orders issued by the Food Administrator. Food Administration Order No. 39 amends Food Administration Order No. 36, dated May 3, 1944, fixing the official maximum prices of laundry soap, lard, and edible oil; Food Administration Order No. 40 suspends the provisions of Food Administration Order No. 30, regarding the requirement for license and delivery of 20 per cent to the Biba in the matter of shipments of rice to Manila; Food Administration Order No. 41 creates committees on rice claims; while Food Administration Order No. 42 amends Food Administration Order No. 34, dated May 15, 1944, fixing the official maximum prices of palay and rice in certain provinces and cities.

CLOSELY allied to each other are three decrees formulated this month pertaining to peace and order. These are Executive Order No. 57, promoting and retiring with gratuity certain members of the Metropolitan Constabulary of the City of Manila; Executive Order No. 58, establishing a unified control over the Philippine Constabulary; and Executive Order No. 59, creating a Bureau of Investigation, defining its duties, merging therein certain existing agencies of the Government, and providing funds therefor.

The Bureau of Investigation will be composed of the Division of Investigation of the Bureau of Public Prosecution, the Division of Information of the Philippine Constabulary, and the Secret Service Division and the technical section of the former Metropolitan Constabulary, and will have as its Acting Director Brigadier General Alberto Ramos and as its Acting Assistant Director Manuel A. Gonzales.

At the induction into office of Messrs, Ramos and Gonzales, President Laurel explained that "the Bureau of Investigation has been created to help the administration establish an upright, clean, and honest government. It has not been created for the purpose of making it difficult for the people to live but of helping those in the public service to perform their duties."

AN important regulation on finance is the issuance of Order No. 6 by the Minister of Finance. This order deals with the escheat to the Government of unclaimed balances of credits and deposits held by banks without court proceedings under Act No. 3926, as amended by Executive Order No. 204, dated September 9, 1943. Under Executive Order No. 63, the Minister of Finance shall have executive supervision over the Philippine National Bank and the Agricultural and Industrial Bank, and shall exercise the powers, duties and functions which by law pertain to the boards of directors of the said Banks.

ON June 8, 1944, Executive Order No. 60 was promulgated with a view to rehabilitating the sugar industry and placing the industry on a basis which would insure its survival in an unprotected market. Appointed to direct the functions of the Philippine Sugar Association created by this executive order were Benito Razon as Vice-President and Executive Director; Juan Cojuangco, Cesar Ledesma, Ildefonso Coscolluela, Carlos Rivilla, Ricardo Descalls, Matsuo Imayoshi and Shigeru Morishita as Members of the Board of Directors and Keizo Hori as Auditor.

OTHER decrees formulated this month are Executive Order No. 61, placing the Government of the City of Manila under the direct control and supervision of the President of the Republic of the Philippines; Ordinance No. 21, authorizing the Director of Communications to designate lieutenants of barrios as postal agents and to pay them a commission on the sale of postage stamps and stamped stock; Ordinance No. 22, exempting from taxation the short-term securities authorized to be issued under Act No 35 and providing for their acceptance at par as security by the Republic of the Philippines in any transaction therewith in which security is required; and Order No. 23 of the Ministry of Home Affairs, changing the seat of government of the municipality of Siruma Camarines Sur.

AT THE banquet given in honor of the Philippine Gratitude Mission, headed by the Honorable Benigno S. Aquino, on June 10, 1944, President Laurel had occasion to declare that the mission has not only created a good impression among the Japanese people but has also fostered greater and

closer friendship between the people of Japan and the people of the Philippines. "I hope," he said, "that as time goes by and as times are made more difficult because of the intensification of the world conflict that the Filipinos will not only love their freedom but also the freedom of their brother Orientals in this part of the world. I hope that we shall always be together—Japan and the Philippines."

For his part, Ambassador Aquino declared that "For the formation of a nation external conventional demonstrations are not enough. It is necessary to possess sincerity and an unalterable conviction, a firm resolution to confront any menace, all adversities, all dangers. The sincere and true patriots many times are misunderstood and, in many cases, branded traitors, but this does not surprise me because many times the truth appears to be falsehood and loyalty treason.

"In these historic times, during which our country, which is an Oriental country, has established its own republic, I am sure that the sincere crystallized and well proven patriotism of our President will be a model and a mirror for all our countrymen."

Source: Office of the Solicitor General Library